



NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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The National Weather Service forecast office in Memphis, Tennessee and the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center in Slidell, Louisiana will now provide five day river stage forecasts for the Mississippi River near Tunica, Mississippi.

Beginning December 21, 2011, the new service will help protect the lives and property of people living along the river near Tunica. Flood stage at this location is set at 41 feet. The new river gage site is owned and operated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

“The addition of Tunica Riverpark to our river forecast responsibilities will provide enhanced flood warning services for residents along the Mississippi River,” said Jim Belles, Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Memphis Weather Forecast Office.

The Memphis Weather Forecast Office provides all weather services for 56 counties in the Midsouth. The office collects meteorological data; prepares and disseminates weather forecasts, river and flood forecasts and warnings; and issues severe weather watches and warnings to the public.

The Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center prepares river stage forecasts for the Mississippi River from Cairo, Illinois to New Orleans, Louisiana. These forecasts are then forwarded to National Weather Service forecast offices throughout its service area for dissemination to the public.

“This new forecast service at Tunica Riverpark is an invaluable tool,” said Suzanne Van Cooten, Hydrologist-in-Charge of the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center. “The river stage forecasts help us meet the National Weather Service mission of protecting life and property for the citizens in the Midsouth.”

The National Weather Service is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories. It operates the most advanced weather and flood warning and forecast system in the world, helping to protect lives and property and enhance the national economy. Visit us online at weather.gov and on Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com / US.National.Weather.Service.gov](http://www.facebook.com/US.National.Weather.Service.gov).

NOAA’s mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Visit us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/usnoaagov>.

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